

the presence of coprolitic matter would seem to show that in some instances at least the latter could exist for a time in their underground prison. The occurrence of so many skeletons, with a hundred or more specimens of land-snails and myriapods, in a cylinder only 15 inches in diameter proves that these creatures were by no means rare in the coal-forests; and the conditions of the tree with its air-breathing inhabitants implies that the Sigillarian forests were not so low and wet as we are apt to imagine.

The little land-shell, specimens of which with the mouth entire have now occurred to the author, is named by him *Pupa vetusta*. Dr. Dawson found entire shells of *Physa heterostropha* in the stomach of *Menobranthus lateralis*, and hence he supposes that the *Pupæ* may have been the food of the little reptiles the remains of which are associated with them.

Two examples of *Spirorbis carbonarius* also occurred; these may have been drifted into the hollow trunk whilst they were adherent to vegetable fragments. The Myriapod is named *Xylobius Sigillariæ*, and is regarded as being allied to *Iulus*.

The reptilian bones, scutes, and teeth referable to *Dendroterpeton Acadianum* bear out the supposition of its Labyrinthodont affinities. Those of the new genus, *Hylonomus*, established by Dr. Dawson on the other reptilian remains, indicate a type remote from *Archeōsaurus* and *Labyrinthodon*, but in many respects approaching the Lacertians. The three species determined by the author are named *H. Lyellii*, *H. acidentatus*, and *H. Wymani*.

4. "On the Occurrence of Footsteps of *Chirotherium* in the Upper Keuper of Warwickshire." By the Rev. P. B. Brodie, F.G.S.

True Chirotherian footsteps do not appear to have been hitherto met with in the Keuper of Warwickshire; but a specimen of Keuper sandstone showing the casts of a fore and a hind foot of *Chirotherium* was lately turned up by the plough at Whitley Green near Henley-in-Arden. The breadth of the fore-foot is about 2 inches; the hind-foot is $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches across. As the New Red sandstone of Cheshire, so well known for its fine Chirotherian foot-tracts, certainly belongs to the upper part of the New Red series, it may now be further correlated with the Upper Keuper of Warwickshire, the latter having yielded true Chirotherian foot-prints.

MISCELLANEOUS.

On the Mud-Fish of the Nile (*Lepidosiren annectens*?).

By Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S. &c.

THE British Museum has just received from M. Parzudaki of Paris two specimens of *Lepidosiren* from the "embouchure du Nil." They are much larger than any I have seen from West Africa. The largest is much bigger than the specimen which escaped from the small tank into the basin warmed with hot-water pipes in the Crystal Palace. One, in its dry, unstuffed state, is 32, and

the other 22 inches long. I have not been able to discover any difference between them and the specimen we have from Western Africa. The anterior filaments are very long: in the larger they are 9, in the smaller, 7 inches long, and evidently much contracted in drying.

Early Notice of the Tipaia found in Pulo Condore.

By Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S. &c.

In Mr. W. Ellis's drawing (now in the Banksian Library at the British Museum) of the animals observed during Cook's third voyage, there is a figure and description of a species of *Tipaia*, marked as coming from Pulo Condore. In the MS. which accompanies the drawing it is described as—*S.*

“*Sciurus (dissimilis)* auriculis rotundis, rostro elongato, dentibus primoribus 6.

Habitat in Insula Pulo Condore.

Statura *S. vulgaris*. Caput, dorsum, et cauda supra colore leporino: infra pallido-grisea. Dentes superiores duo breves rotundati obtusi, inferiores 4 longiores exserti cuneati acute!! Pedes pentadactyli. Cauda depressa longitudine corporis, supra et utrinque pilis longis, infra brevibus tecta!! Mystaces breves.”

According to his ‘Authentic Narrative of a Voyage,’ 8vo, 1782, vol. i. p. 337, they were at Pulo Condore on the 20th of January 1780.

I may here observe that Mr. Ellis, in his MS. now in the Banksian Library, proposed and characterized several genera of birds, fish, &c., which have since been published by other authors. But he appears to have been restrained from publishing them by the strong prejudice that then existed against making any addition to the genera allowed by Linnæus, though that author, in his various editions of his ‘Systema,’ constantly altered and added to the genera. This prejudice continued until a much later date: thus, Dr. Horsfield, in order to ensure the publication of his paper on Japanese Birds, was obliged to erase a considerable number of genera, which have since been universally adopted.

New British Species of Hydra.

To the Editors of the *Annals of Natural History.*

GENTLEMEN.—Only three species of *Hydra* (*H. viridis*, *H. fusca*, and *H. grisea*) have hitherto been found; or perhaps it would be safer to say, only three have been described in the works accessible to me; and I therefore think it not wholly superfluous to send you word that a fourth species exists, apparently in great abundance, in the ponds of Wimbledon Common. I have there found, besides the three species already known, a beautiful bright-red species, which I propose to call *Hydra rubra*. The colour differs in intensity in different states of the animal, being sometimes of a brick-dust hue, and sometimes very like the red *Dianthus*.